



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 16, 2010 (Thursday)

Time: 0600 Hours

CONTACT: Lieutenant Ernie Herbert

Homicide Unit

(619) 531-2275

POLICE INVESTIGATE IN-CUSTODY DEATH AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating the death of a male who was in custody at the San Diego Police Department watch commander's office being processed for booking into jail.

Last night, at approximately 7:40 p.m., officers received a radio call of a disturbance in the 4900 block of Longford Street in the community of North Clairemont. Officers arrived at the intersection of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and Longford Street and found citizens holding a 36 year-old black male, who had been accused of attempting to burglarize an apartment.

The preliminary investigation has revealed the suspect was discovered in an enclosed patio area of an apartment, looking into the windows. The resident of the apartment was walking home, saw the suspect on the patio and questioned what he was doing. The suspect punched the resident and fled on foot. The resident caught the suspect at the intersection and was assisted by other citizens in holding the suspect until police arrived.

When officers arrived to assist the citizens, the suspect complained of pain to his legs. Paramedics were called and transported the suspect to a local hospital, where he was treated and released. The suspect was transported to the police headquarters building for processing, prior to booking into jail, when he again complained of pain to his legs and having difficulty breathing. Paramedics were called to the police station and were treating the man when he died.

San Diego Police officers did not use any force on the suspect when taking him into custody or transporting him for processing. The cause of the male's death is not known. His identity has not been confirmed. An autopsy is pending.

###